

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498**Office Action dated: December 28, 2007****Response dated: March 10, 2008****PATENT
PF030028 US****REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed December 28, 2007 has been reviewed and carefully considered. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. New Claims 19-22 have been added. Claims 1-13 and 15-22 are pending.

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,904,522 to Bernardeau et al. (hereinafter "Bernardeau").

As noted above, Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to clarify an aspect of the applicants' invention. Support for the amendments may be found at least at Figures 2, 5, and 7 and the corresponding text of the Applicants' specification.

It is respectfully asserted that Bernardeau does not teach or suggest the following limitations of Claim 1:

a master digital terminal and at least one slave digital terminal adapted to generally simultaneously receive protected digital data from a transmitter, the at least one slave digital terminal being connected to the master terminal by a link,

wherein said at least one slave digital terminal blocks if information necessary for accessing said protected digital data and received by the master digital terminal is not received by way if said link by the slave digital terminal within a predetermined deadline.

Further, it is respectfully asserted that Bernardeau does not teach or suggest the following limitations of Claim 13:

A digital terminal intended to receive protected digital data from a transmitter generally simultaneously with a second digital terminal, wherein the digital terminal blocks if information necessary for accessing said data and received by the second digital terminal to which it can be connected, is not received from this other terminal within a predetermined deadline.

In contrast to the above recited limitations of Claims 1 and 13, Bernardeau discloses the following in his abstract:

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498**Office Action dated: December 28, 2007****Response dated: March 10, 2008****PATENT
PF030028 US**

[A] method of providing secure communication of information between at least a first and second digital audiovisual device (30, 52) and characterized in that the first device (30) communicates to the second device (52) a certificate $Ct(K_{pubT})$ comprising a transport public key K_{pubT} encrypted by a management private key K_{priMan} , the second device (52) decrypting the certificate using an equivalent management public key K_{pubMan} and thereafter using the transport public key K_{pubT} to encrypt information sent to the first device, the first device using an equivalent private key K_{priT} to decrypt the information. The present invention is particularly applicable to a method of providing secure communication between a first and second decoder.

However, Bernardeau is silent with respect to the (slave) digital terminal blocking as per the above recited limitations of Claims 1 and 13. This blocking approach as recited in Claims 1 and 13 is quite different from the approach of Bernardeau in which the slave simply cannot do anything without the proper key.

Thus, Bernardeau does not teach or suggest all the above recited limitations of Claims 1 and 13.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP §2131, citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 13 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over Bernardeau for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-12, 15, and 17 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 1 and, thus, includes all the elements of Claim 1. Claims 16 and 18 depend from Claim 13 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 13 and, thus, includes all the elements of Claim 13.

Accordingly, Claims 2-12, 15, and 17 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over Bernardeau for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1, Claims 16 and 18 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over Bernardeau for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 13.

Thus, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498**Office Action dated: December 28, 2007****Response dated: March 10, 2008****PATENT
PF030028 US**

As noted above, new Claims 19-22 have been added. Support for Claims 19-22 may be found at least at Figures 3 and 6 and the corresponding text of the Applicants' specification.

Dependent Claims 20-21 depend from Claim 1 and, thus, include all the elements of Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 20-21 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over Bernardeau for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Moreover, independent Claims 19 and 22 include patentable subject matter in and of themselves and are, thus, patentably distinct and non-obvious over Bernardeau in their own right. For example, Bernardeau does not teach or suggest the following limitations of Claim 19:

a master digital terminal and at least one slave digital terminal adapted to generally simultaneously receive protected data from a transmitter, the at least one slave digital terminal being connected to the master terminal by a link,

wherein said slave digital terminal can access said received protected digital data only if information necessary for accessing said protected digital data and received by the master digital terminal is sent by way of said link to the slave digital terminal within a predetermined deadline,

wherein the information necessary for accessing said protected digital data comprises filter parameters for extracting from the data stream received by the slave digital terminal a message containing access entitlements to the services for the slave digital terminal

Moreover, Bernardeau does not teach or suggest the following limitations of Claim 22:

A digital terminal intended to receive protected digital data from a transmitter generally simultaneously with a second digital terminal, wherein the digital terminal can access said received protected digital data only if information necessary for accessing said data and received by the second digital terminal to which it can be connected, is not received from this other terminal within a predetermined deadline,

wherein the information necessary for accessing said protected digital data comprises filter parameters for extracting from the data stream received by the slave digital terminal a message containing access entitlements to the

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498**Office Action dated: December 28, 2007****Response dated: March 10, 2008****PATENT
PF030028 US**

services for the slave digital terminal.

That is, Bernardeau is silent with respect to the filter parameters (comprised in the information necessary for accessing the protected digital data) and the corresponding message extraction as per the above recited limitations of Claims 19 and 22. This filter approach as recited in Claims 19 and 22 is quite different from the approach of Bernardeau in which the slave simply cannot do anything without the proper key.

Accordingly, Bernardeau does not teach or suggest the above-recited limitations of Claims 19-22.

Thus, new Claims 19-22 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of December 28, 2007 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-13 and 15-22 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498

Office Action dated: December 28, 2007

Response dated: March 10, 2008

**PATENT
PF030028 US**

No fee is believed due with regard to the filing of this amendment. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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